



РЕПУБЛИКА МАКЕДОНИЈА
MARRI Presidency-in-Office
2014-2015



SKOPJE DECLARATION
MARRI Regional Forum
Skopje, 10th June 2015

We, the Ministers and High Representatives responsible for issues of migration, asylum and refugees of Republic of Albania, Republic of Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republic of Serbia, Montenegro and Kosovo* have met in Skopje, on 10 June 2015, in the framework of the Migration, Asylum and Refugee Regional Initiative (MARRI).

With the participation of EU, IOM, ICMPD, DCAF, UNHCR, State Secretariat for Migration Switzerland;

Guided by the Cavtat Declaration adopted at the MARRI Regional Forum on the 10th of June 2014 and priorities of the Macedonian MARRI-Presidency-in-Office;

Applying the principle of regional ownership and accepting the principle of all-inclusiveness in the Western Balkans region;

Welcoming the new MARRI participant Kosovo*;

Respecting the decision of the Republic of Croatia to withdraw from MARRI membership, and thanking for honoring its commitments in realization of the obligations throughout the period of being a member of MARRI;

Recognizing that promotion of good-neighborly relations and integration into the European Union remains priority common goal of the Western Balkans and stressing the growing importance of migration issues for the security and prosperity in the Western Balkans and Europe;

Guided by the commitment in the “Berlin process” to work more intensively together in regional structures;

Reconfirming the importance of MARRI as a regional instrument for cooperation and permanent dialogue;

*This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence

Undertaking to continue intensive regional cooperation in the field of migration making full use of the existing funding opportunities such as IPA II and calling for an increased cooperation and assistance to our region being confronted with similar challenges as frontline members of the EU;

Convinced that an Action Plan is needed to step up the operational capacities of MARRI and MARRI RC in supporting long term capacity building in the region;

Identifying the Project “Support of cooperation among border police on airports in Southeast Europe - BORDAIRPOL” as a link between the main regional airports and a source of precious information needed for improving the security of the passengers;

Recognizing irregular migration as a phenomenon which should be dealt with on a regional level through the perspective of facilitating a common security and defense policy in the field of migration in the Western Balkan region, and in order to better use information to identify and target smugglers.

Declaring gratitude to the host Participant, the Republic of Macedonia for providing financial means for the premises and all MARRI Participants for annual contribution for the running costs of the Centre;

Following the direction as identified in the MARRI Strategy and Action Plan 2014-2016 and preparing its mid-term review;

Noting with satisfaction the Republic of Macedonia’s coordination and cooperation of activities performed during its Presidency-in-Office of MARRI;

Recognizing that our respective authorities, in line with the accepted responsibilities in the Berlin process to work more intensively together in regional structures,

Expressing our confidence that the forthcoming MARRI Presidency-in-Office of Montenegro will continue to coordinate the realization of the activities and priorities laid out in the Priorities of Montenegrin MARRI Presidency;

We convened at the MARRI Regional Forum and confirmed in particular:

Macedonian MARRI-Presidency-in-Office

Expresses satisfaction over the results achieved during the Macedonian MARRI Presidency-in-Office, in particular the following activities:

- In close cooperation between MARRI Regional Centre and US Embassy in Skopje, through VolVis Project in the framework of MARRI Network for Cooperation in Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, in the period 16-27 November 2014 the study visit “Building a Regional Response to Human Trafficking” was organized;

- On 16 and 17 December 2014 in Ohrid, Republic of Macedonia, the regional workshop on “Regional Cooperation for Better Response to the Trafficking in Human Beings in SEE” was held. The workshop was organized with close cooperation among MARRI, RACVIAC and the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Macedonia;
- On the initiative of MARRI, through TAIEX instrument of the European Commission, on 24th and 25th February 2015, in Skopje Workshop on personal data protection of foreigners, with representatives from Republic of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republic of Croatia, Kosovo* , Republic of Serbia, Republic of Macedonia and Republic of Turkey was held;
- Friends of MARRI Meeting/Diplomatic Briefing, held in Skopje, 10 of March 2015;
- In the frame of the project “Support of cooperation among border police on airports in Southeast Europe - BORDAIRPOL”, under Macedonian Presidency-in-Office were organized 4 events;
- In January 2015 procedure for election of next director of MARRI, was launched;
- Grant Agreement was signed between MARRI RC and British Embassy Skopje on 21 May 2015 for the Project “Improvement of the Procedures for Establishing Identity of Irregular Migrants in the MARRI Region”, which aims to establish a joint database of interpreters of rare languages and develop a regional legal framework for harmonization of the procedures for establishing identity of irregular migrants;

Express appreciation to the Macedonian Presidency-in-Office for the efforts made in terms of successful coordination and implementation of activities during its Presidency-in-Office (May 2014-May 2015), as well as for the successful organization of the meeting of the MARRI Regional Forum in Skopje;

Appreciate the support of the European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders of the Member States of the European Union (FRONTEX) in helping ensure that the migration system will in the relevant areas be closer aligned to the EU standards and best practices;

Appreciate the support provided by all partners and beneficiaries in achieving objectives and outcomes of the BORDAIRPOL project aiming at implementing the EU best practices and strengthening the cooperation among border police on airports in Southeast Europe.

Naming the forthcoming Director of MARRI, Ms. Tamara Mugoša from Montenegro for the mandate of 3 years.

Wishing success in performing the position of MARRI Director and continuing with positive practice of progressively imposition of MARRI as regional provider of new ideas;

Thanking to the outgoing MARRI Director, Trpe Stojanovski Ph.D. for the integrity with which he managed MARRI thus contributing to its successful transformation in a relevant regional organization in the field of migration;

Believe that Montenegro will put at disposal all necessary capacities in order to implement the obligations deducted from the one year Presidency priorities.

Express our full confidence regarding the active engagement of Montenegro that took over the Presidency for the period of June 2015 - June 2016;

Done in Skopje, 10 June 2015